

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

COOK INLET SABLEFISH OPENS

EO # 2-GF-H-09-12

The Cook Inlet Area sablefish season will open at 12:00 noon July 15 with a 69,000 pound guideline harvest level (GHL). A season closure will be announced when harvest projections indicate achievement of the GHL. Harvest will be monitored via fish tickets and contacts with buyers and fishermen. **A vessel may not land or have on board more than 3,000 pounds of sablefish (round weight) in any two consecutive day period.** All state waters sablefish catch must be landed within 24 hours of the closure (5 AAC 28.371).

Any vessel retaining sablefish during the Cook Inlet sablefish season must possess a Cook Inlet Area sablefish registration and participants must submit completed ADF&G logbook pages to the department with each fish ticket. In order to register for the Cook Inlet sablefish fishery, fishermen must present a Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) sablefish permit card for the appropriate gear type. A vessel may not be validly registered for more than one groundfish registration area at a time. In order to change registration areas, a vessel owner or agent must notify ADF&G in Homer. Registrations and ADF&G logbook pages are available from department offices in Homer, Soldotna, and Anchorage or via fax with prior arrangement with the Homer office (ph: 235-8191; fax: 235-2448). Sablefish logbook pages will also be available in Seward at Icicle Seafoods and Resurrection Bay Seafoods. Please contact ADF&G Homer with questions regarding the Cook Inlet sablefish fishery.

Sablefish IFQ-holders wishing to participate in this fishery should contact NMFS enforcement in Homer (235-2337) or Seward (224-5348) prior to fishing.

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